



Fourteenth Year Annual Report

Chairman's report



Chennai Fine Arts has completed another eventful year. Fourteen years have gone by and we have successfully organised concerts and lecture demonstrations over the years. This year began with Dasarathi Sangeethotsavam featuring nine concerts at Sri Krishna Mandiram.

CFA continues its activities at the academy training students in classical music teaching vocal, chitravina, veena, mrudangam and arumukhanam. This year, training was also started in Nagaswaram and Taval. Presently there are about fifty students learning music in the CFA Academy. Classes are also conducted online for the benefit of students in other parts of the country and abroad. The Ministry of Culture, Government of India, supports the academy with Repertory Grant and we are able to include more artists under our organisation.

This year's 'Shukravaara Sangitam' concerts were performed by two little kids who were about ten years old. Charulatha (Veena) and Shruti Jayaraman (Vocal) excelled in the concerts.

Smt. Lakshmi Rangarajan performed a concert in memory of TM Tyagarajan, who was a remarkable performer and guru of yesteryears.

The Vaggeyakkara Vaibhavam concerts which were planned in November last year and cancelled due to floods were organised in July and September featuring the compositions of Mysore Jayachamaraja Wodeyar and Koteeswara Iyer respectively.

The Annual Music Festival was held in the month of December in which senior violinist Smt. T. Rukmini was presented the GNI award for excellence. There were sixteen concerts featured in the festival. This was also supported by the Ministry of Culture with CFPGS.

The 250th Jayanthi of Saint Tyagaraja was celebrated with concerts and Ghana Raga Pancaratna group singing at Sri Krishna Mandiram and at Mylapore Fine Arts Club, in association with Sunaada Trust.

A special Visesh Vadyanubhava concert was held on the occasion of the birth Anniversary of Devakkotai Narayana Iyengar, in which 'Chitravina' P. Ganesh performed.

The final event of the year was the release of a book, Gems of Sadashiva, edited by Vidwan TP Vaidyanathan. He, along with his disciples presented a few compositions those were published on that day. Thus the year was a successful one.

Acknowledgement

It is my pleasure to thank Prof. TN Krishnan, Chitravina N Ravikiran, Haridwaramangalam A.K. Palanivel, R Muthukumar, the Tamil Nadu Iyal Isai Nataka Mandram and the State Academy Directorate of Arts & Culture, Tamil Nadu for their continuous support to the trust in its activities.

Auditor Mr. Ashwin Sridhaaran and our Bankers, Bank of India, Adyar Branch need a special acknowledgement for their services for the smooth functioning of the trust.

A note of appreciation to all the faculties for skillfully training the students of CFA Academy. I also thank Kalaimamani S Gopakumar for his services at Puducherry.



The trust places its appreciation to all the sponsors and donors. Thanks are also due to the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, New Delhi for extending financial assistance to carry out the object of the trust more effectively and efficiently. All the media friends including Trinity Mirror, Makkal Kural, the New Indian Express, The Hindu, Dinamani, Dinamalar, Online Times, Aboorva Ragam, and Sruti Magazine are also thanked profusely for their tremendous support.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees,

P N Muralidharan, Chairman
Chennai-20.



Constitution

Board of Trustees

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R Muthukumar	Editor in-chief, Trinity Mirror

CFA Academy Faculty

S Nithyasree	Principal / Veena Guru
'Chitravina' P Ganesh	Vocal & Chitravina Guru
A.S. Divya	Vocal Guru
B. Mani	Nagaswaram Guru
Venkatesan	Tavil Guru
A G Murugan	Tavil Guru
S Sivasubramanian	Mrdangam Guru
R Rajesh	Mrdangam Guru



ACTIVITIES OF THE TRUST DURING THE YEAR



FESTIVALS

Dasarathi Sangeethotsavam
Vaggeyakara Vaibhavam
Fifteenth Anniversary Music Festival



OTHER SPECIAL EVENTS

TM Tyagarajan Remembranc Concert
250th Jayanthi of Saint Tyagaraja
Devakkottai Narayana Iyengar Birth Anniversary
Shukravaara Sangitam



CFA ACADEMY

Activities
Faculty & Students



PUBLICATION

Compositions of Mysore Sadasiva Rao



AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS

GOTUVADYAM NARAYANA IYENGAR AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE



SOCIAL ACTIVITIES



Festivals

DASARATHI SANGEETHOTSAVAM

Dasarathi Sangeethotsavam is a festival commemorating Sri Rama Navami. This is organised with a series of concerts every year in association with Sri Krishna Mandiram in Thiruvananthapuram. Every year begins with this divine festival at Chennai Fine Arts. Nine concerts were organised in this year's festival.



VAGGEYAKKARA VAIBHAVAM

Two Vaggeyakkara Vaibhavam Concerts were organised during the year. In these concerts, compositions of one select composer are rendered exclusively. The first Vaggeyakkara Vaibhavam of the year was held on 16th July, featuring the compositions of the royal composer of Mysore, Jayachamaraja Wodeyar. Dr Rajshri Sripathy, Head of the Department of Indian Music, University of Madras presented a lecture about the composer. Mambalam Sisters Vijayalakshmi & Chitra presented the concert of Jayachamaraja Wodeyar's compositions accompanied by Dr Hemalatha on the violin, Kallidaikurichi Sivakumar on the Mrdangam and Nergunam Dr Shankar on the Kanjira. The second program was held on 11th September in which Mohan Santhanam presented the compositions of Koteeswara Iyer. He was accompanied by Pakala Ramadas on Violin, Melakkaveri Balaji on Mrdangam and Harihara Sharma on Kanjira.





ANNUAL MUSIC FESTIVAL – Supported by Ministry of Culture, Government of India



The Annual Music Festival was held in the famous December Season of Chennai for eight days from 21st December to 28th December 2016. There were 16 concerts in all in the festival which included performances by veterans and young upcoming artistes. On the inaugural day, renowned violinist Smt. T Rukmini was honoured with the Gotuvadyam Narayana Iyengar Award for Excellence. The award carries Rupees One Lakh cash, a gold medal and citation. The festival was inaugurated by Vaidyanathan, Chief Editor of Dinamani newspaper and Spencer Venugopal, carnatic music enthusiast and composer felicitated the awardee.



OS Arun



Sunil Gargyan



Shyamala Venkateswaran



Baradwaj Raman



TP Vaidyanathan



G Ravikiran



Srivani Yalla



G Adithyaram



Prof. Venkataramanan Pothi



Akshay Padmanabhan



'Chitravina' N Ravikiran



DV Ravikanth



Prof. TN Krishnan & Sriram Krishnan



Iyer Sisters



Dr T Lokanadha Sarma

Other Special Events

TM Thyagarajan Remembrance Concert



This was a concert in memory of yesteryear vidwan TM Thyagarajan who was a performer of repute and also a composer. He set to tune many lyrics of Chengalvaraya Sastri, Ramaswamy Sivan, Annayya and Periyasamy Thooran. He also published with notation the bhakti literature works Tiruppavai and Tiruvembavai. Many senior musicians in the present generation like O. S. Thyagarajan, Mangalam Shankar, Lakshmi Rangarajan, Kuzhikkarai Viswalingam, E. Gayatri, Dr M. Narmada, Raji Gopalakrishnan and Nirmala Sunderarajan were his disciples. Of them, Lakshmi Rangarajan presented concert accompanied by RK Shriramkumar on the Violin, Arunprakash on the Mrdangam and Guruprasad on the Ghatam on 27th June.



250th Jayanthi of Saint Tyagaraja



The year 2016 was remarkable in the history of Carnatic music, as it happened to be the 250th Birth anniversary of the saint composer Tyagaraja. He is hailed as one among the trinity of Carnatic music who gave structure to the classical compositions with raga oriented rendition. On this rare occasion, CFA organised two events. One was a concert of Tyagaraja's compositions by the living legend Prof. TN Krishnan and his daughter Viji Krishnan. The other event was a group rendition of Tyagaraja's ghana raga pancharatna kritis lead by Dr Premeela Gurumurthy, former Professor and Chairperson of the School of Fine & Performing Arts, University of Madras. This event held at the Mylapore Fine Arts Club was in association with Sunaada Trust and E-parampara.

Devakottai Narayana Iyengar's Birth Anniversary



Narayana Iyengar was a renowned Veena vidwan. A concert was organised to celebrate his birth anniversary on 3rd March 2017. 'Chitravina' P Ganesh, a top ranking chitravina artist performed on the occasion. He was accompanied by BU Ganesh Prasad on the Violin, NC Bharadwaj on the Mrdangam and Nergunam Dr Shankar on the Kanjira.



Shukravaara Sangitam

The Shukravaara Sangitam concerts are held on the last Friday of every month. However, during this year only three concerts were organised. Two kids, Charulatha (Veena) and Sruthi (Vocal) gave commendable performances this year. Another concert was by Navneet Venkatesan from the KVN style.



CFA Academy

CFA Academy imparts eminent training in Carnatic music. The younger generation is given an exposure to our classical art forms and a keen interest is developed in them. The academy functions at various places in Chennai, Puducherry and Tiruvallur. Online classes are also conducted for students residing abroad. Training is provided under the categories of Vocal, Chitravina, Veena, Mrudangam, and Arumukhanam. In the coming years, it is proposed to include rare instruments such as Nagaswaram and Taval also in to the academy.

Faculty profile

S. Nithyasree	Principal & Veena Guru
Chitravina P. Ganesh	Chitravina & Vocal Artiste
T Venkatesan	Nagasvaram Artiste
B Mani	Taval Artiste
A G Murugan	Taval Artiste
A S Divya	Vocal Artiste
R Rajesh	Mrdangam Artiste
S Sivasubramanian	Mrdangam Artiste

Area-wise student strength for the academic year 2016-17

Chennai, Tamilnadu	50
Puducherry, Union Territory of India	12
TOTAL	62

CFA Online

Chennai fine arts has remarkable presence online. The activities of the trust are regularly uploaded in its website www.chennaifinearts.com. The trust is also active in the social media. The photographs of all the performances are available at the facebook link <https://www.facebook.com/Chennaifinearts>. CFA also started a YouTube channel recently and it can be viewed in the name of Chennai Fine Arts. (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmZMfaOICrZenZciB7GYUaQ>).



Social Activities

CFA is coaching carnatic music to 30 students free of cost, under the traditional GURUKULAM system in the outskirts of Chennai city. It has been donating musical instruments like Violin, Veena, Mrudangam and so on to the deserving students every year. In the past ten years nearly 30 students have been benefitted by this contribution. Every year annadhanam is organized to provide food to the needy students. The trust is also supporting with financial assistance, the economically weaker school-going children towards payment of their fees and continues the same till they complete their school final, for the past five years.

Chennai Fine Arts aims to reach wider audience and cater to the needs of more deserving people. The trust will continue its activities enthusiastically as ever with support from patrons, audience and the artists.